

Issue NE-CW1902, released May 13, 2002, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

GENERAL: Cold, windy conditions last week slowed emergence of spring planted crops and hard freezing temperatures in the west damaged sugarbeet stands, according to the USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Rainfall in eastern and central portions of Nebraska boosted dryland prospects. However, little relief was received by producers in western counties waiting for significant rainfall to limit drought damage to dryland crops and pastures.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center.

WEATHER: Temperatures averaged 6-9 degrees below normals across the northern third of the State and 2-6 degrees below normal elsewhere. Precipitation was statewide with locations in parts of the southeast receiving 2 inches or more while most areas of western Nebraska accumulated only .25 inch. Freezing temperatures in the Panhandle ranged from the mid-twenties to the high teens during the week.

CROPS: Corn planting was 79 percent complete, ahead of 72 percent last year and 74 average. Emergence was noted on 26 percent of the acreage, behind 27 last year but ahead of 23 average. Cool soils slowed emergence in northern counties, with some fields planted over two weeks ago not yet emerged.

Soybean planting moved slowly ahead to 19 percent complete, ahead of last year’s 16 but behind 21 average. Three percent of the crop was emerged, behind 4 last year and average. Soil

temperatures in most areas averaged less than 60 degrees during the week, too cool for plant development.

Sorghum planting reached 7 percent completed. This was near 6 percent last year and 9 average.

Wheat condition held steady from last week due to the cool temperatures but remained lower than last year and average. Condition currently rated 11 percent very poor, 22 poor, 44 fair, 22 good and 1 excellent. Forty-six percent of the crop was jointed, behind the 57 percent last year and 64 average. A few fields in the Southwest had begun to head due to the dry conditions. Statewide, only 2 percent of the acreage had headed, near 1 last year but behind 4 average

Oat emergence was at 89 percent by the end of the week, ahead of 68 percent last year and 83 average.

Sugarbeet planting was nearing completion until freezing temperatures damaged stands and made replanting necessary.

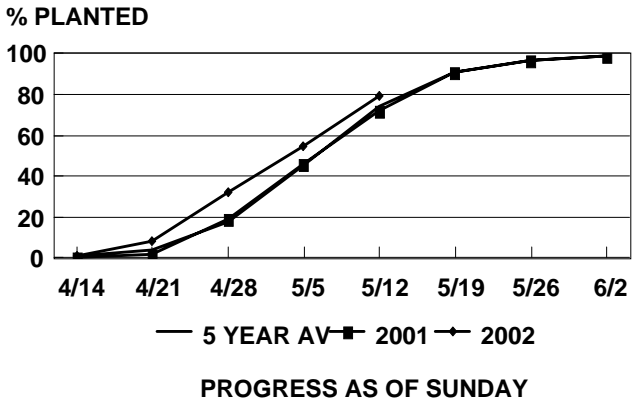
Alfalfa condition showed little change and rated 2 percent very poor, 8 poor, 35 fair, 49 good, and 6 excellent. A few fields were cut in the Southeast, but less than 1 percent statewide, with 1 percent last year and average.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture and range conditions continued below average and rated 7 percent very poor, 19 poor, 37 fair, 35 good, and 2 excellent. Poorest conditions continued in the Southwest and southern Panhandle counties, where near two-thirds of pastures were in poor or very poor condition.

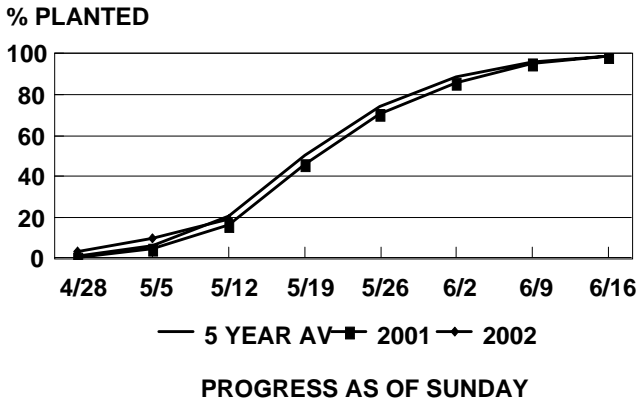
Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of May 12, 2002

Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	72	71	73	91	78	62	92	90	79	55	72	74
% Corn Emerged	9	10	10	22	26	15	40	47	26	9	27	23
% Soybeans Planted	0	15	8	33	17	4	24	27	19	10	16	21
% Sorghum Planted	0	0	10	5	7	3	2	10	7	1	6	9
% Wheat Jointed	26	30	30	32	56	65	50	65	46	34	57	64
% Oats Emerged	59	91	99	79	86	93	99	99	89	83	68	83
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	6.4	4.9	4.8	5.8	4.1	6.4	5.9	3.0	4.9	4.4	4.0	5.1
Topsoil Moisture - % Very short	38	2	0	31	2	42	30	3	18	19	0	6
- % Short	34	12	8	21	20	40	21	10	21	24	3	20
- % Adequate	28	86	79	48	75	18	49	77	59	56	86	66
- % Surplus	0	0	13	0	3	0	0	10	2	1	11	8
Subsoil Moisture - % Very Short	33	1	1	33	15	36	47	6	19	19	1	10
- % Short	41	24	17	45	38	45	31	43	34	40	16	16
- % Adequate	26	75	75	22	47	19	22	51	46	41	81	70
- % Surplus	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4

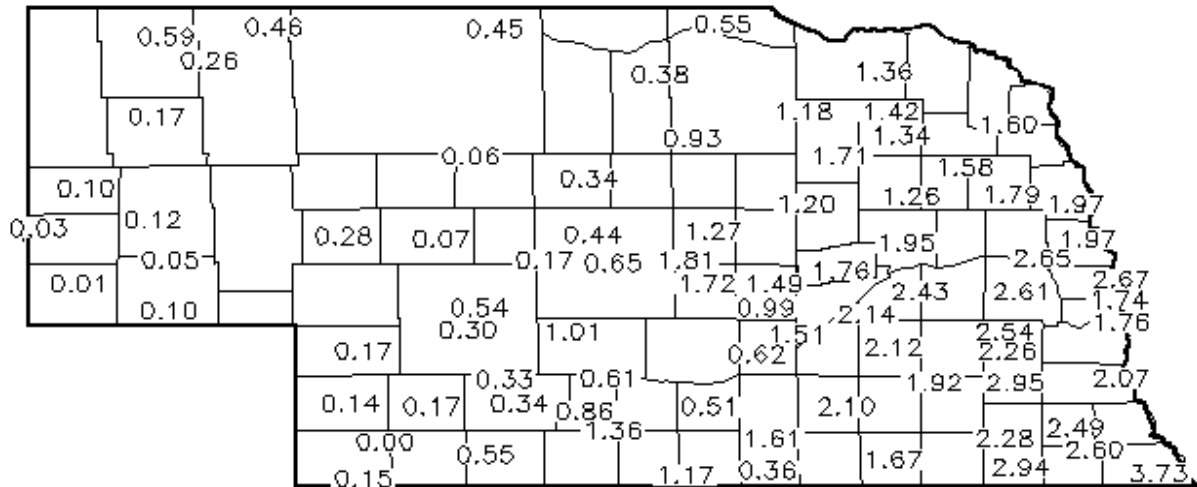
CORN
PLANTED



SOYBEANS
PLANTED



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending May 12, 2002



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - May 12, 2002

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.20	.66	1.52	.99	2.16	.29	1.26	2.21
Total since April 1	1.16	3.22	4.44	3.03	4.80	1.37	2.19	4.49
Normal since April 1	2.91	3.35	3.95	3.77	4.24	3.12	3.52	4.30
Total as % of normal	39%	96%	111%	80%	113%	43%	63%	104%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature and Growing Degree Days: By Location, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday May 12, 2002

Station		Temperature				Growing Degree Days Since April 15		
		Extremes		Average	Departure	Last Week	Current	Normal
		High	Low					
NW	Alliance	78	21	45	-9	30	164	203
	Scottsbluff	82	25	48	-5	40	195	203
	Sidney	82	19	47	-7	41	186	210
NC	Ainsworth	62	32	48	-8	30	173	223
	Arthur	82	29	47	-9	36	175	222
	O'Neill	63	32	48	-10	27	180	234
NE	Concord	75	32	52	-7	43	199	235
	Elgin	74	33	50	-8	37	194	239
	West Point	81	35	54	-6	53	219	249
C	Grand Island	83	36	54	-5	51	229	246
	Lexington	87	33	54	-5	50	237	244
	Ord	79	31	51	-7	44	209	242
EC	Lincoln	83	40	58	-3	72	267	258
	Central City	84	37	54	-5	51	230	247
	Mead	82	37	57	-4	65	255	256
SW	Champion	86	31	52	-5	50	224	231
	North Platte	84	31	52	-5	48	216	232
	Curtis	85	34	53	-4	51	223	237
SC	Arapahoe	82	29	49	-7	39	193	220
	Minden	85	34	55	-4	52	237	244
	Red Cloud	86	39	59		78	301	248
SE	Beatrice	83	41	59	-2	76	281	258
	Clay Center	83	37	55	-4	54	231	247
	Nemaha	84	45	61	-1	83	312	281

Source: High Plains Climate Center.

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